



MANCHESTER HEALTH DEPARTMENT MONTHLY REPORT SUMMARY, May, 2007

COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL PROGRAM

PROGRAM LISTING:

**Arbovirus
Surveillance &
Control**

**Chronic Disease
Prevention**

**Communicable
Disease Control**

**Community
Epidemiology**

Dental Health

**Environmental
Planning and
Pollution Control**

Food Protection

HIV Prevention

Immunizations

**Institutional
Inspections**

**Lead Poisoning
Prevention**

**Public Health
Investigations**

**Public Health
Preparedness**

Refugee Health

School Health

**Sexually
Transmitted
Disease Control**

**Tuberculosis
Control**

Water Quality

**Youth Health
Promotion**

Summary of Program: Historically, communicable disease control and surveillance have been the cornerstone of community health nursing. Following the resurgence of sexually transmitted infections in the seventies, other newly emerging infections were identified which included HIV, Legionnaires Disease, Lyme Disease, West Nile Virus, EEE, *E. Coli* 0157 and multi-drug resistant tuberculosis (TB). Other reportable diseases and the potential advent of pandemic influenza are also threats to the health and well being of all segments of the community. A strong public health infrastructure is key in order to successfully combat infectious diseases.

With a team of highly skilled and seasoned Community Health Nurses, the Division of Community Health provides immediate response to reports of communicable diseases within the City of Manchester, implementing control measures and providing referrals for prophylaxes when required. Most compelling, is Manchester data, which indicates a rise of close to 170% in reportable diseases within a five-year period (from 99 in FY 2002 to 266 in FY 2006).

Summary of Activities: During Fiscal Year 2006, the Communicable Disease Control Program:

- Provided immediate investigations and implemented control measures for 266 reportable diseases.
- Of these reportable diseases, 18% (48) were reports of pertussis, a vaccine-preventable disease.
- Investigations, case management and directly observed therapy were provided for 3 clients with active tuberculosis disease. Case management was also provided for 182 clients with latent TB infection (LTBI). The Community Health Staff provided a total of 1,100 home visits related to TB control issues.

Manchester Health Department
Communicable Disease Reports, 2002-2006

Year	# Reportable Diseases
2002	99
2003	201
2004	185
2005	251
2006	266

Program Notes and Trends: Once anticipated to be eliminated as a public health menace, emerging and reemerging communicable diseases remain at the forefront of the public health mission. The early forecast for the eradication of communicable diseases did not consider the unique abilities of pathogens to change, adapt and develop resistance to antibiotics. Changes in human behaviors, demographics and a mobile society also contribute to the change in the landscape of infectious diseases.

Although major achievements have been made to decrease vaccine-preventable diseases, some Manchester children remain at risk. Vaccination rates for two-year-old children have increased from 48% to 78% since 1993; however, in some neighborhoods close to 30% of children still lack adequate vaccinations. New vaccines have now been developed for protection against pertussis, meningitis and cervical cancer and the Manchester Health Department will continue to play an important role in ensuring families and medical providers are aware of the new recommendations. Vaccine coverage rates of at least 90% are needed to protect the public health.

Despite the remarkable successes in reducing the incidence of infectious diseases and in vaccine development, communicable disease continues as a significant public health challenge. The Division of Community Health will remain poised to initiate immediate investigations and control measures, enhance surveillance efforts, continue work on improving vaccination rates, build on cross-training within the Department and continue to augment linkages with community partners. Such initiatives will be vital in the event of a large outbreak or an influenza pandemic.

COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES

SCHOOL HEALTH ADVISORY COUNCIL: The School Health Advisory Council's (SHAC) mission is to promote optimal physical, emotional, social and educational development of students using a model of collaborative school health. SHAC strives to develop strategies to effectively address community health needs within the school setting by promoting the development and implementation of quality school health programs using a multidisciplinary approach.

Representation on the council include: the Health Department, School Department, New England Food and Dairy Council, American Cancer Society, physical education teachers, school nurses, health teachers, Elliot Hospital, CMC, Dartmouth Hitchcock-Manchester, Southern NH Services, Making It Happen, Office of Youth Services and Media Smart to name a few.

One SHAC initiative currently underway is addressing sun safety/sun protection. SHAC has tri-fold sun safety displays along with teaching materials available to loan out to the health teachers of all grade levels to promote sun safety as summer approaches. Sun safety and anti-tanning materials are now available in the school nurse's office for all schools through a generous donation from the American Cancer Society.

WEED AND SEED STRATEGY: The United State's Attorney's Office has submitted an application on behalf of the Manchester Weed and Seed strategy to obtain national "Graduated Site" status. Receiving Graduated Site status indicates success in the first five years of the strategy, and provides potential federal funding opportunities in the future, participation in national conferences, access to technical assistance and use of the Weed and Seed logo and signs. The City has committed to sustaining and expanding the Weed and Seed strategy in Fiscal Year 2008 through City's Community Improvement Program (CIP).

In an effort to counter the ongoing issue of graffiti throughout the City, children from the Salvation Army Kid's Cafe Program have partnered with a local artist to design a removable community mural. The mural will be displayed in various locations throughout the Weed and Seed area.



On June 1, 2007, the Weed and Seed strategy will be hosting a Neighborhood Watch Group "Meet & Greet" from 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the Manchester Health Department. At this event, the Neighborhood Watch Groups will be planning a series of "kick-off" walks throughout the East and West sides of the City. There are currently 41 watch groups in total with nearly 700 residents participating throughout the year.

CARDIOVASCULAR HEALTH: The American Heart Association (AHA) in conjunction with Mayor Frank Guinta, and the Manchester Health Department held a "walking press conference" on May 3, 2007 to promote the AHA's Start! Walking Program and to announce the release of a historic walking guide of downtown Manchester. The historic walking guide which was spearheaded by the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce along with CMC, Elliot Hospital and Dartmouth Hitchcock can be found at <http://www.manchester-Chamber.org/uploads/pdfs/ManchesterWalkingTour.pdf>. Joining the walking press conference was Jared Fogle, the spokesman for Subway, who shared the story of his personal battle with weight gain and touted the benefits of proper diet and exercise in improving one's health.

The Passport for Cardiovascular Health Planning Committee has developed a Worksite Wellness Toolkit for Businesses and a Facilitator Guide for the Passport Program. The Planning Committee will be working with the Greater Manchester Chamber of Commerce to share these valuable programs with the local business community.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Visit our website at <http://www.manchesternh.gov/CityGov/HLT/Home.html>, or call 624-6466